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## Russian Federation

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## International Fishery Congress in Vladivostok

### Report Categories:

Fishery Products

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### Report Highlights:

The report summarizes major efforts and achievements of Russia to address the efficiency and sustainability of the Russian fishery sector.

### General Information:

The Office of Agricultural Affairs (OAA) participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Fishery Forum held in Vladivostok on September 9, 2009. Representatives from 16 countries, from the federal and regional government, business and scientific communities attended the Congress. The governor of Primorye kray Dar'kin and the Head of the Federal Fishery Agency (FFA) Andrey Krayniy were keynote speakers at the event.

Mr. Krayniy provided an update of the overall fishery sector and highlighted some government

initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency of the fishery industry in Russia. According to him, for the first time in Russia, the government passed the Federal Targeted Program to develop the fishery industry for the period 2009-2013, including a budget over 62 billion rubles (\$200 million). The current Federal budget allocated 3.6 billion rubles (\$120 million) for developing the Russian fishery sector, of which 1.2 billion rubles (\$4 million) is for fleet renovation, 1.8 billion rubles (\$6 million) is for modernizing fish processing equipment and 0.6 billion rubles (\$20 million) is for construction cold storages.

Mr. Krayniy also pointed out Russia's interest in continuing international cooperation in the fishery sector. Currently Russia is a member of 20 multilateral organizations which are involved in fishery issues. In addition, Russia has 52 intergovernmental agreements on fishery with 37 foreign countries. Currently, the Russian Pollock Association is working closely with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (USA) to promote certification for harvested fish and seafood and sustainable fishery practices in the Far East.

One of the most important achievements by FFA in 2008 was developing state regulation and norms for fish catch and eliminating administrative barriers. According to Governor of Primorsk kray Sergey Dar'kin excessive administration resulted in a loss estimated at 1 billion rubles. It was reported that to date that 90 percent of the norms have been adopted, including passing amendments to 70 government resolutions.

Despite the financial downturn in most industrial sectors of Russia, the fishery sector showed stable growth. Since January 2009 investments in the main assets in the fishery industry increased by 29 percent and the average salary in the industry between January-May 2009 increased by 22 percent over the same period in 2008.

During January-September 2009, Russian fishermen harvested 2.3 million MT of fish, up 12 percent from the same period in 2008. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to date is 60 percent of the 2009 allocation.

Alaskan Pollock is one of the major species caught in the Russian Far East. During January-September 2009, nearly one million metric tons was caught in the Far East. The higher harvest of Pollock is attributed to improving schemes for Pollock catch, as well as general condition of the Pollock population in the area.

The FFA will continue to support long-term (10 years) quota distribution system. In 2009 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for more than 100 species, including flounder, capelin, squids and skates, was abolished.

For more detailed information about the Congress please check <http://www.fish-forum.ru/news/show.php?id=53>

## **Salmon Situation/Intervention**

The improvement in governmental oversight coupled with enhanced scientific forecasting resulted in a record 500,000 MT salmon catch this year. However, it is reported that lack of storage facilities and refrigerators prevented the fish from reaching the European part of Russia. As a result Rosselkhozbank has agreed to allocate 1 billion rubles for purchasing approximately 50,000 MT of salmon in the Far East. The objective of the intervention is to stabilize prices for salmon and provide additional storage facilities for fish in the European part of Russia. It is reported, that after these plans were announced, the prices for salmon in the Far East increased by 7-8 rubles per kilo. Salmon prices per kilo under intervention will be 20-30 rubles/kilo which is 15 rubles higher than the prices last year.

It is also reported that the largest trade chains “X5 Retail Group” have agreed to purchase the fish. According to trade sources, there are certain advantages of the government’s initiative: 1) interventions will make shipments of fish to the domestic market profitable 2) they will allow fishermen to sell their catch on competitive prices, 3) and satisfy consumer demand in the central Russia.